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DRAFT DECISION

Refugees, displaced persons and returnees

The Governing Council,

Taking note of the continued increase in emergencies, in particular those involving refugees, returnees and displaced persons, and their impact on the development prospects of the already fragile infrastructures of the countries concerned,

Stressing that the economic and social problems posed by emergencies and displaced populations are multisectoral and multifaceted in nature and that durable solutions can be achieved mainly through a development-based approach,

Reiterating its conviction that a system-wide approach to emergency preparedness and response is indispensable,

Recognizing the established mandates and operational responsibilities of the various agencies and programmes of the United Nations system,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/136 of 15 December 1989, which assigned specific roles and responsibilities in emergency situations to the United Nations resident coordinators,

Further recalling General Assembly resolution 36/225, of 17 December 1981, which called upon organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to establish units or focal points for emergency activities,

Recalling also that Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/78 of 27 July 1990 requested the Secretary-General to initiate a United Nations

system-wide review which, inter alia, would assess the experience and capacity of various organizations in assisting all categories of refugees, displaced persons and returnees and the whole spectrum of their needs in supporting the efforts of the affected countries to address them,

1. Takes note of the report of the Administrator on refugees, returnees and displaced persons (DP/1991/20), of the ongoing and completed activities reported on therein, and the various measures it proposes to strengthen the response of the United Nations Development Programme to future humanitarian challenges;

2. Endorses the work programme for 1992 proposed in document DP/1991/20;

3. Takes note of the efforts made by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to implement the tasks of the two organizations in a complementary manner and welcomes the working arrangements reflected in their joint letter of 1 November 1990 to all resident representatives and representatives of the High Commissioner;

4. Encourages the United Nations Development Programme to continue its close cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and other relevant United Nations organizations dealing with both man-made and natural disasters as well as with non-governmental organizations;

5. Encourages the United Nations Development Programme to continue to play an active role in assisting concerned Governments to assess the impact and respond to the needs of refugees, displaced persons and returnees in their development plans and programmes and to continue to seek co-financing from other resources;

6. Further encourages the United Nations Development Programme to play an active role in assisting concerned Governments with natural disaster preparedness and reduction, in consonance with the aims and objectives of the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction;

7. Commends the Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator and the United Nations Development Programme for the progress achieved in their collaborative efforts, including the Disaster Management Training Programme and the preparation of a disaster manual;

8. Recognizes the need to provide stronger professional backstopping to field offices so that the challenges of a greatly increased number of emergencies leading to uprootedness can be more effectively met;

9. Authorizes the Administrator to establish immediately a Humanitarian Programmes Support Unit for a period of one year pending a decision by the Economic and Social Council on the outcome of the review called for in its resolution 1990/78;

10. Further authorizes the Administrator to fund from [the Special Programme Resources] the operations of the Humanitarian Programmes Support Unit in an amount not to exceed $1.2 million;

11. Calls upon the United Nations Development Programme to report to the Governing Council on all items contained in this decision at its thirty-ninth session (1992).